MN 126

Mr.A.R.Larkin, St.Louis Park INDIANAPOLIS

P.C.Reilly April 7, 1933

VILLAGE OF ST. LOUIS PARK - WATER SUPPLY

I have yours of the 4th.

We cannot think that at a depth of 543 feet theSt.Louis Park water supply is contaminated with material from our plant, especially as it had to go through a lime rock which would have taken care of the phenol so it would not appear in the water. But you do not say how deep the lime rock is and perhaps the wells you speak of, not cased, may have conveyed some oil from our property to the water, although I think it is highly improbable that it is the case. But at any rate,* close up the wells and do anything that is necessary to prevent any chance for the allegation being made that the swampy taste of the water comes from our property. Further, I think the State Chemist will admit phenol can be generated from other things than Creosote Oil; that there is practically no phenol in the Creosote Oil used in treating timbers and the little there is would quickly go off in vapor the minute the treated charge were drawn from the cylinder in its heated state. It is just inconceivable to me that any phenol has gotten into the water from our plant.

Yours very truly,

R.S

REPUBLIC CREOSOTING COMPANY

President.

* before closing the wells drop some (a quantity) lime in them and then wash it down with water. Consult Rademacher how to do this, - to remove alltraces of phenol.

P.C.R.

302955

Mn 126

REPUBLIC CREOSOTING COMPANY

St. Louis Park, Minn.
April 4, 1933.

TO: Mr. P. C. Reilly, President - Indianapolis

FROM: A. E. Larkin 543

SUBJECT: VILLAGE OF ST. LOUIS PARK WATER SUPPLY

After the new mains were laid in St. Louis Park, all connected with the Minneapolis water supply, the cost of buying this water prompted the Village to put in their own well and supply tank so as to be independent of the City of Minneapolis supply, and this work was started just about a year ago and the well put into operation in June or July of last year.

The first water drawn from the well was satisfactory and approved by the State Department of Health but as they drew more heavily on this supply, a taste and odor developed indicating contamination from some place and we heard last summer that the taste and odor indicated swamp water.

The St. Louis Park well at that time was down to 393 feet and all cased to shut off the surface water and neither the engineer in charge nor the McCarthy Company, who built the well, could explain where the swampy taste came from, but at an additional expense the Village put the well down another 150 feet and added some 8-inch casing, shutting off a further supply and drawing their supply from farther down, hoping in this way to eliminate the objections.

At this time the Village turned back to the use of the Minneapolis City water until they could get a satisfactory water of their own and they have been using Minneapolis City water ever since because the added depth of the well did not relieve the situation and, in fact, after further pumping the State Chemist reports a trace of phenol, which he claims gets to their water from our plant.

Last week Mr. McCarthy of the McCarthy Well Company and Mr. Bradley, the Village Engineer, called to explain the situation confidentially to me in an effort to avoid, if possible, any further charges that we were responsible for the difficulty the Village is having in getting a suitable supply of water.

Apparently Bradley and McCarthy have developed every possibility they can think of to correct the situation and as McCarthy has a record of ~~building~~ all the wells in this neighborhood, he is of the opinion that the contamination comes from one of our wells that is not cased below 373 feet and which goes down 909 feet and the other well which we are not using and which was here when we purchased the property that goes down to 955 feet but is only cased to about 150 feet from the surface.

There is a lime-rock and sand-rock formation that contains horizontal fissures that is the heaviest water bearing strata in this section and that all the wells tap and as neither of our wells case off that supply, it is possible for contamination from our operation to reach this lime-rock strata and being carried in the horizontal cracks and crevices to the two holes on our property, namely the old well that is not based and the new one that is only cased part way, and in this way get down to the

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lower strata and finally into the water bearing strata below from which the St. Louis Park well draws its supply.

We are on sand and gravel and the storage of treated ties could easily account for the soluble portion of the oil being washed from the ties onto the ground and finally from the ground into the lower strata through the sand and gravel.

If our main well is cased down an additional distance to prevent the water from coming into it through the lime-rock strata and the old well is carefully plugged full length, McCarthy and Bradley believe this will eliminate the trouble at the St. Louis Park well.

To explain further, while this lime-rock supply of water is a fairly good water for our purposes, yet we are not dependent upon it because our well taps the supply below and we can safely cut off this lime-rock strata and get an improved supply of water that will be better for our purposes, especially in connection with the boiler-feed water, and this in itself would be an advantage because the lower water is softer and this has been learned from actual tests but at the time we built our well we did not want to limit ourselves to the lower water because it cost more to pump it, and at that time we were drawing our water with a surface pump and did not have to go into a deep well pumping proposition.

Since that time, however, we have had to follow the water down considerably lower and are now on a deep well pumping proposition with air because we found we could no longer raise it to the surface with a suction pump and this happened several years ago when the general level of the water receded.

As we are already equipped to get the water from lower down, the only change is that we will get a better water than we are getting at the present time for industrial purposes.

The most important part of this entire matter is to avoid any claims on the part of the Village and if we case this well off and plug the other old well, we shall, in the opinion of the engineers and McCarthy, eliminate any possible question of contamination from this plant and we think it is wise to do this before the matter goes any further because there already is a suspicion existing on the part of a number of people in St. Louis Park that the contamination is coming from our plant, and of course they are all anxious to get rid of the cost of water from the City of Minneapolis and until this matter is cleared up they cannot put their own well into operation.

There is, of course, no guarantee that the work we would do on our well would eliminate the objectionable odor and taste, but at least after protecting our wells as above no one could claim that the contamination is coming from our plant.

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REPUBLIC CREOSOTING COMPANY

April 4, 1933.

To: Mr.Reilly-Indianapolis
Re: Village of St. Louis Park Water Supply

This work at our plant could be done in two or three days and the estimated cost is $500.00 for taking care of the two wells and we believe this work should be done, and promptly.

I thought I would have an opportunity to visit with you this week about this matter and get it settled but as the situation has some danger in it, especially if the people in the Park become impatient because of the delay in getting the water from their own well, I would like very much to get as prompt a reply from you as possible.

One can see in the background the possibility of claims being made by the Village for the expense they have been put to over a period of many months for water from the City of Minneapolis and no end of complications if we did not do everything we could to eliminate such charges and claims, especially when we have learned the condition exists, as outlined above.

We have drawings of all the wells in this neighborhood from actual records made by the McCarthy Company, showing the various strata that have been encountered in each well, and from their experience in the entire territory they are very familiar with all of these water bearing strata and the explanation they have made of the situation impresses me with the necessity of protecting our company by doing the work on the two wells we have referred to.

Yours very truly,

REPUBLIC CREOSOTING COMPANY

A. E. Larsen

Manager

AEL:FJ

[redacted]

302979

MN 128

REPUBLIC CREOSOTING COMPANY

TO: Dr.I.H.Derby, Reilly Lab. INDIANAPOLIS

FROM: P.C.Reilly May 12, 1933

SUBJECT: VILLAGE OF ST. LOUIS PARK WATER SUPPLY

I do not know whether you are acquainted with the supposed complaint that might be made against our plant at St.Louis Park on the theory it was contaminating the St. Louis Park water supply but for fear you are not I shall relate the circumstances.

Mr. Larkin reported it was alleged that the ground at our plant was saturated with phenol and that it had reached the water supply of St. Louis Park and that it had contaminated it. As a result of two contractors telling him this he had, before we had a chance to question the complaint, made a contract with these contractors for $500.00 to dig the well deeper or to do something or other, just what I do not know, but we do know it cost us $500.00 on some alleged complaint.

It is our contention that the water could not be and was not contaminated from our operation of our plant. The contamination was said to be phenol. To make sure whether the water was contaminated or not I sent to Minneapolis for a sample of the water which was received today and I am sending it over to the Laboratory and I would wish it tested and ascertain if there is any phenol in it and if there is whether it is phenol from coal tar or phenol from decayed vegetation, as is possible, for our ground and surrounding country is swamp land, filled with decayed vegetation.

Yours very truly,

R.S

REPUBLIC CREOSOTING COMPANY

P C Reilly

President.

302960

MN 127

Mr.A.E.Larkin, St.Louis Park — INDIANAPOLIS

P.C.Reilly — April 7, 1933

VILLAGE OF ST. LOUIS PARK - WATER SUPPLY

I have yours of the 4th.

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Yours very truly,

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President.

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P.C.R.

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Mr.R.L.Rademacher,St.Louis Park — INDIANAPOLIS

P.C.Reilly — May 24, 1933

VILLAGE OF ST. LOUIS PARK WATER SUPPLY

Please refer to your letter of May 18th. We have found the swamp water contains phenol, ten parts to the billion, whereas the phenol from our property is twenty parts to the billion. I think the greater percentage in our property is due to its saturated condition from the sugar refinery which was established there at one time.

Dr.Derby feels before the Village again begins pumping its supply of water that we should start pumping our wells letting the water go to the surface of our ground, - this for the purpose of drawing any water that might have phenolic content in and about our place away from that water which would be drawn by the Village pump. It would be preferable to spray the water rather than to pump it in volume, for instance if it could be used in spraying our grass or garden about the place or in the open field it should be done in this way. We do not want it sprayed on that part of the ground on which the ties are stored because the ties have a phenolic content. The point is to get drawing on our wells so we would be taking that water from our section, both the swamp section and our yard, and thus prevent it getting into the flow which the Village pump will make when working.

Yours very truly,

R.S

REPUBLIC CREOSOTING COMPANY

President.

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